

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2139 without my signature.

In 2005, I vetoed a substantially similar bill and encouraged the Legislature and insurance industry to address the narrow situation where those driving their own family members to medical appointments are not considered as driving during the course of employment.

This bill, however, did not incorporate that suggestion, and as such, does not address the fundamental fairness issue for consumers. Insurers must be able to manage the risk they assume and charge insureds appropriate rates to cover that risk. This bill would subject all drivers, including many that also work for similarly low wages as In-Home Support Service (IHSS) workers, to subsidize the increased premium costs associated with the increased risks these particular insured represent.

Without question, IHSS workers perform an invaluable service for California's most vulnerable citizens allowing them to remain in their own homes. That being said, there are a great number of invaluable services that are performed everyday that benefit millions of our citizens. This bill would cause just one classification of employment to be exempt from the insurance rating factors that affect all other consumers.

For these reasons, I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger